dispose of larger numbers of applications for waste lands. There were only 8 applications for loans under the Agricultural Loans Regulation, IV of 1066. I am aware that some of the provisions of this Regulation are unworkable in practice and stand in urgent need of amendment. The appointment of an additional Head Sirkar Vakil has been recently sanctioned, in view to the revision of several of the Regulations, and his attention will be drawn to the defective nature of the law on this subject. The pay of the lowest grade of village accountants was raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per mensem. A special staff was sanctioned to work off the *puduval* arrears in the Todupuzha taluk and in the hilly *pakuthies* of the Chengannur taluk. The ryots of the Tovala, Agastisvaram, Eraniel and Kalkulam taluks were exempted from the liability to pay half the cost of Minor irrigation works. The date of opening the Kodayar main channels and the Reservoir was changed from the 1st of June to the 20th of May, in the interests of the ryots concerned. Revised rules were issued for the sale of waste lands on the hills for coffee and tea cultivation and the rules for the grant of grass lands to the proprietors of coffee and tea Estates for homestead and farmstead, at certain concessional rates, were cancelled. The re-survey of the Nedumangad taluk made good progress, the outturn being 48·9 square miles, against 28·4 square miles in 1088. Towards the close of 1089, the system of land records maintenance was thoroughly examined and it was decided to simplify the scheme and confine its scope to the detection of encroachments on Sirkar lands and to the demarcation and survey of sub-divisions effected during and subsequent to Settlement. Revised rules have been passed on the subject and the simplified scheme will be extended to the Devicolam Division also. The Land Revenue Manual, for the compilation of which Mr. R. Mahadeva Aiyar, Dewan Peishkar, has been specially deputed, is nearing completion and will be shortly published.

7. **Forest.**—There was a net decrease of 325 acres under Reserved Forests, the total area of Reserved Forests at the end of the year being 2,337 square miles and 209 acres. As you are already aware, the policy of the Government is *not* to extend the area under reservation, except in cases of absolute necessity. The net revenue of the department rose from Rs. 5,42,501 to Rs. 5,64,460. Government trust that this accession to the forest revenue will be steadily maintained under the administration of Mr. V. Subrahmanya Aiyar, M. A., F. L. S., F. Z. S., whose services have been lent to the State by the British Government, for employment as Conservator of Forests in Travancore.

8. **Salt.**—The net revenue from salt rose from Rs. 10,37,962 to Rs. 11,34,454, *i. e.*, by Rs. 96,492. The selling price of home salt was slightly raised and a uniform rate of Re. 1 As. 10 per maund was fixed for both home and Tuticorin salt in factories, depôts and bankshalls. There was no change in the price of Bombay salt. The average consumption of salt per head of population rose from 23·4 lbs to 23·7 lbs. The experiment of engaging special contractors for the import and direct sale of Bombay salt having proved unsatisfactory, it was given up. Bombay salt alone was sold in the Munambam Depôt. Similarly, the import of Tuticorin salt in large quantities appeared to be of doubtful advantage, and it has been resolved to reduce the Tuticorin supply and to increase the quantity of Bombay salt proportionately. An experimental fish-curing yard was opened at Muttam in South Travancore, salt for curing being supplied at 12 As. per maund. The experiment is being watched with interest.

9. **Excise.**—The net revenue under the heads of Abkari, Opium and Ganja, and Tobacco, rose from Rs. 27,66,312 to Rs. 30,27,512, showing an increase of Rs. 2,61,200. The excise system in regard to country liquor was in force in 32 out of the 33 taluks of the State, the taluk of Devicolam continuing to remain under the old farming system. In regard to opium and ganja, the independent shop system was introduced as an experimental measure in the Nedumangad taluk. The price of opium remained the same as in 1088, *viz.*, Bh. Rs. 40 per seer, while the price of ganja was raised from Bh. Rs. 12-As. 12 to Bh. Rs. 16-As. 4 per seer. The rules passed under the Tobacco Regulation, I of 1087, came into force from the beginning

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of the year, as a result of which the total sales under tobacco rose from 14,807 candies to 16,510 candies. The average consumption per head of population was 4·3 lbs.

10. **Customs.**—The net customs revenue rose from Rs. 12,04,135 to Rs. 13,67,980, showing an increase of Rs. 1,63,845. The duty on goods imported for the use of the State was hitherto included in the calculation of the amount payable by the British Government, under the Interportal Trade Convention. On a representation from the State, however, that Government has agreed to its exclusion in future. Of the total duty levied, that on exports amounted to 93·9 per cent. The port of Alleppey was exempted from the rule prohibiting the shipping of goods before payment of duty, and the rules relating to the bonding of goods in the warehouse at that port were revised during the year. The development of the port of Alleppey has engaged the serious attention of the Government and the appointment of a full-time Port Officer, possessing nautical experience, has been sanctioned. He is expected to join duty very shortly.

11. **Stamps.**—The net revenue from stamps rose from Rs. 16,62,483 to Rs. 17,92,484, while the gross revenue reached the high figure of Rs. 19,18,820.

## PROTECTION.

12. **The Legislative Council.**—Four ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting of the Legislative Council were held during the year. Eleven Regulations were passed by the Council and one direct by His Highness the Maha Raja. The most important piece of legislation was the Co-operative Societies Regulation, X of 1089. The benefits of this measure are bound to be far-reaching. Mr. C. Govinda Pillai, B. A., B. L., a seasoned revenue officer, has been appointed Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and arrangements have been made for his receiving adequate training in British India, before entering on his duties. The Hackney Carriages Regulation, VI of 1089, and the Game Preservation Regulation, XII of 1089, are also worthy of special mention. Since the close of the year, five more Regulations have been passed, including the Village Panchayat Courts Regulation, I of 1090, and the Opium Regulation, IV of 1090. It is hoped that, when the Village Panchayat Courts are established, the congestion of work in the Civil Courts in regard to petty suits will be appreciably reduced.

13. In regard to the Elementary Education Bill, introduced into the Council by Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai, I regret to observe that it had to be thrown out. The interests of the Government and those of the people in the matter of universal free primary education are identical. I cannot, however, help repeating that it is practically impossible to introduce compulsory education without additional taxation.

14. In regard to the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation, V of 1071, the amendment of which has formed the subject of representation in several Sessions of the Assembly, I would invite your attention to G. O. No. J. 227, dated the 5th January 1915, from which it will be seen that the Government have resolved to appoint a Committee to enquire into the working of that Regulation. Both the Jenmies and the Kudiyans will be represented on the Committee. I would, however, remind the Jenmi members of the Assembly that it is impossible for the Government to go back upon the broad policy laid down by the Proclamation of 1042, in favour of the tenants' fixity of tenure in the lands held by them on kanapattom.

15. A vacancy will soon arise in the Legislative Council, consequent on the expiry of the term of Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai, who had been returned by the Members of the Trivandrum Division. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the Members of that Division will now meet under the presidency of the Dewan Peishkar, Trivandrum, to elect a representative, whose name will be submitted to His Highness for consideration.



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